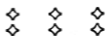


**One Man and An  
Island or the Miracle  
of Malta's Defense**




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# One Man and an Island or The Miracle of Malta's Defense



Since war broke out in September of 1939, the most heavily bombed spot in the world has not been London, or Chungking, or Tobruk, or Corregidor, but a little British island in mid-Mediterranean. Malta, just eight miles wide and about 17 miles long, has been bombed well over 2,000 times. On June 11th, 1940, the day after Italy entered the war, and just before the surrender of France, the attack on Malta began, early in the morning.

The defense of Malta was not feasible. It had no fighter planes, and no properly defended airports. It lies in the narrow sea lane near the Straits of Sicily, and was menaced by enemy territory both to the north and to the south. Thus military authorities considered it best to make no defense of the island, rather than to struggle against the inevitable capture of Malta by the enemy. But a strange thing happened. On the island there were four sea Gladiators awaiting shipment in a dockyard storehouse. They were not, even then, the best fighters Britain had, and they were designed for aircraft carriers, not for land operations. There were also at Malta four seaplane pilots. They had never flown fighter planes, but they took on the defense of Malta. Those four, later reduced to three, met wave after wave of enemy bombers. They fought all day, only coming down for fuel, for repairs, and to take on more ammunition. They grappled with forces ten times their number, and won out. The Maltese people named them, "Faith, Hope and Charity."

There is something strange about this place. The defense of Malta has continued in the same miraculous manner. German pilots, compelled to bail out over the island, report the barrage to be paralyzing. "When we took off," said one captured German pilot, "we

had no idea what we were getting into." The British declare that no dive-bomber squadron can attack Malta for more than a very short period. **THEIR NERVE FAILS!** Captured German pilots say that new Nazi squadrons brought to Italy to attack Malta are not allowed to mix with battered ones, so they do not hear beforehand what faces them. So wonderful has been this defense that Malta is the only **PLACE** on earth that has been awarded the George Cross for bravery.

We may well ask ourselves, "How has this been brought about?" To understand it we must look from the island to the man. The Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the island during those two years of desperate siege, was Lt.-Gen. Sir W. G. S. Dobbie, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. This man, strangely enough, literally ended the first World War. As a member of General Haig's staff, he wrote and signed the order for the Armistice, and later signed the order for the occupation of Germany. He is a man who has a simple and tremendous faith in **ALMIGHTY GOD**, which makes him completely fearless. He attends church regularly. He prays when he rises in the morning and again in the evening, when he leads his family in after-dinner prayers. He reads the Bible daily, and conducts Bible classes for his troops.

Here are his own words regarding the defense of Malta, as quoted from the B.B.C. Magazine "London Calling." He says, "During these two years of siege I was very conscious of the good hand of God upon us, and I am sure that the continued safety of Malta was ultimately due to His Divine protection. I am not alone in this conviction. Many others share it with me, and are glad to acknowledge it humbly and thankfully. I am convinced that God for Christ's sake still does answer prayer, and I believe that the recognition of this fact was the secret of the spirit, endurance, and fortitude shown by so many persons in Malta. Acknowledgment of God through Christ, and **TRUST IN HIM**, is now, as ever, the thing that **MATTERS MOST.**"

That is the testimony of a man who knows the facts! Simple faith in the Christ of Calvary saved the Island of Malta! It is surely evident that Christ lives today, and is abundantly able to save to the uttermost all who come to the Father by Him. Can we not trust Him completely to save us from the dire consequences of our own sin, and defeat the enemy of our souls? Listen to Sir William Dobbie's personally given testimony: "I came to know Christ as my Saviour forty-seven years ago, and all through my military service to the present day He has been my Saviour and Lord. I could not face life without Him. I pity from the bottom of my heart those who are trying to live without Him. They little know what they are missing. It is no small thing to know that all the past has been forgiven, that help from the hands of Almighty God is available for the present, and that the whole future for eternity is assured. I am not presumptuous when I say I know that, because it has all been given to me by His grace, apart from my own deserts. I commend such a Saviour to all."

Reader, may we ask you point-blank, "Are you trusting such a Saviour?" Have you ever confessed yourself a guilty sinner before God, and asked Him to forgive you because Jesus Christ died on the Cross to pay the full price of your sin? Have you claimed the promise of I John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin"? Let us urge upon you the lesson of the Miracle of Malta. Christ is able to save, and able to keep every man, every woman who will trust Him. Will you not quietly drop to your knees where you are, and in simple faith put your name into John 3:16 in place of the "whosoever"?

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that..... who believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON THE SON HATH LIFE".....John 3:36.